4 THINGS TO DO

01 Art delight

K S School of Architecture is setting up an art gallery -- Gallerie Hebbar- at the institute. The inaugural ceremony will be followed by an exhibition, showcasing beautiful artworks by various artists. **When: December 10, 5 pm**
Where: K S School of Architecture
Register: Walk-in

02 Let's talk animal care

A legend in Animal Welfare, Gauri Maulekhi is ready to take you through "The Nuts & Bolts of Animal Welfare". The discussion, hosted by Act-AHVS Citizen Taskforce, will be around best practices, how we can leverage the system work for animals and what the future may hold for those who are associated with animal welfare. The expert will also throw some light on what we need to do under the new legal framework, applying laws and orders to work with stakeholders like police, RWAs etc, preventing and addressing cruelty, being effective and systems oriented in working with animals. **Register: gitam.zoom.us**
When: December 5, 5-6 pm; Where: Zoom

03 Date with Santa

This Christmas, you get a chance to meet Santa Claus. In a virtual live tour to Finland, Empowered Minds Edu Solutions LLP Adventure Online Programme will help you to celebrate Christmas a week in advance. The live virtual tour will showcase Santa Claus' village in Rovaniemi, Finland. People can take part in a live quiz with the real Santa and win certificates and surprise gifts. **Where: Online; When: December 15, 4.30 pm**
Register: 9594060056/43/42/45

04 Influx of art

Visit Medley to experience an amalgamation of styles, colors, forms, personalities, media, emotions and expressions. It is an exhibition of the work of three radically different artists -- Atoshi Shyam, KT Arun (The Artist of Joy) and Deepak Joshi -- and it celebrates the variety of life and art. The themes are as disparate as the artists themselves. There are butterflies, dragonflies, lilies, gardens, dogs, people.... There are paintings in bright, vivid colours and pictures in stark black and white.
Where: Alliance Francaise; Register: Walk-in; When: December 10-12, 11 am to 8 pm

Covid's end is near?

Doctor says if Omicron is milder, normal life will resume by June 2022

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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Is this the beginning of the third wave or beginning of the end of covid? The debate has begun with the new variant emerging across the globe. While many experts are saying that the pandemic may soon turn into an endemic, others say that it is too early to predict. Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr K Sudhakar said, "This might be the beginning of the end of covid, though we cannot say this definitely. The reason why I don't want to say this is that this may result in complacency among people which is not right. Evidence shows that every pandemic has to end and this one will also end. If we look at the history, the first two waves cause major dangers especially the second one. Even in covid, we had a steep hike. The third or fourth waves may not be as dangerous as the first and second. Having said that, we should not be complacent and we should continue to follow covid-appropriate behaviour."

Meanwhile, in an interview with the Times of India, Mumbai, Maharashtra's technical advisor Dr Subhash Salunke has said that if the Omicron variant is milder, people may return to normal life by June 2022. The logic, as per epidemiology, is that viruses lose their virulence over time and settle for a symbiotic relationship with their living hosts. Dr Salunkhe says that Omicron could be the symbiotic variant: If community transmission of Omicron begins, it would over the next few months replace the highly virulent Delta.

People coming from other states being tested for covid at KSR Railway Station. Testing has ramped up amid Omicron scare

"People may get infected or reinfected, but that would act as a natural vaccine," said Dr Salunkhe, adding Covid could be downgraded from pandemic to endemic in the next five to six months, as a result. In early March, when the number of Covid cases and deaths suddenly shot up, Dr Salunkhe travelled across Vidarbha and told the Maharashtra government that a mutated form of SARS-CoV-2 was the cause. This was confirmed later when scientists identified the Delta variant. The positive outlook comes from Dr Salunkhe whose calculations are based on news about Omicron coming out of South Africa over the past two weeks. One need not be too worried at the moment because it seems to be mild. It is definitely more transmissible, but it is not causing a severe disease," said Dr Salunkhe, who was previously the state director general of health and an adviser to the WHO. "The final word on Omicron's virulence or lack of it is still not out. We have to wait for it for the next couple of weeks when experts make an assessment," he added.

> **"We should not be complacent and we should continue to follow covid-appropriate behaviour**
> – Dr K Sudhakar, health minister

Don't take Omicron lightly: Doctor

Dr Vishal Rao (member of the Genomic Surveillance Committee of Karnataka's Covid Task Force) cautions that no one should take Omicron lightly. He says the only difference between India and South Africa is high vaccination rates.

"Currently, In India, vaccination is at 50 per cent with 30 per cent who have received the first dose. Whereas, in South Africa, only 20 per cent have received the first dose and 5 per cent have received the second dose. However, this does not allow us to take this variant lightly at the beginning itself.

Omicron has exhibited all the potential to create a third wave and has already caused the fourth wave in SA.

Delta has nearly 118 variants and in addition to that, we have the Omicron as a potential threat. Out of the 118, 18 Delta variants were found in India. There is also no data in the entire world to prove that Omicron will specifically affect children."

Guideline changes likely today

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Amid Omicron scare, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Wednesday hinted at releasing new guidelines for management of covid-19 situation. "A cabinet meeting is scheduled on Thursday to take a call on the situation," he said.

"We will analyse the developments that took place after the second wave of covid in the state -- the developments in November, detection of covid cases in clusters, how it has come, how many clusters are there, how to manage it, Omicron effects, tracing of primary and secondary contacts --- all these aspects will be discussed in the cabinet meeting. We will also deliberate on the treatment available in other nations for Omicron and protocols to be followed to deal with the crisis. We will also review all actions taken regarding the second wave of covid such as installation of oxygen plants," he said.

The pending dues for medical education, health departments, private medical colleges and labs will be cleared and approvals have already been given. Covid experts will also be called and a decision will be taken in the cabinet meeting regarding formulation of new guidelines in the state, he explained.

Bommai said in some districts covid cases are on the rise, while in other districts, the situation is under control. The Central government has also given guidelines to be followed. "Everything will be taken into consideration while taking a call on new guidelines," he stated. ***(with input from Agencies)***

German missing from KIA

A German national who came to the Kempgowda International Airport (KIA) has been missing after his RT-PCR results came positive, sources in the Karnataka health department said on Wednesday. Two passengers, aged 43 and 50 years from Germany, had tested positive for covid-19. One of the two had been shifted to the designated hospital, but the other German went missing and his phone is switched off. Sources said that the incident had taken place due to the negligence of authorities at the airport.

Police put green period in spotlight

Carry out drive to popularise sustainable menstruation practices

Menstrual cups were distributed to the women at the 112 call centre and housekeeping staff at the commissioner's office

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To promote women's health and hygiene, the city police are carrying out a menstruation awareness drive by distributing free menstrual cups to the women at the 112 call centre as well as the housekeeping staff at the commissioner's office. The awareness drive will be extended to the women in rural areas in the police department as well as front line workers.

All the women staff at the commissioner's office had gathered to attend the awareness drive where they were explained about the usage of menstrual cups and reusable cloth pads.

The initiative was taken up by the Parihar family counselling centre/Vanitha Sahayavani along with the city police. Rani Shetty, incharge of the counselling centre, said that on Wednesday, they interacted with women working in the dial 112 call centre and explained to them about the importance of health and hygiene. "We had representatives from Stonesoup, a gynaecologist and the inspector Kanakalakshmi who has been using the menstrual cup for years to share her personal experience and help them overcome the hesitancy. For those who were not open to the menstrual cups, we suggested they use cloth pads. The drive will be conducted on Thursday as well and we would be distributing about 200 menstrual cups. We will be extending this to the women in rural police department and the front line workers next week," she said.

Nisha James, DCP Admin, said that the city police have been promoting sustainable menstruation and have been educating their staff about the benefits of the cups. "Most of the women in the department have adapted to it and we had called a gynaecologist to speak to them and explain the benefits. We had women officers who were using it to speak and share their personal experience with everyone. We even created WhatsApp groups for the staff to speak and clarify all the doubts post the program and address their queries," she said.

Anitha, a WPSI from Marathahalli police station, said that she has been using the menstrual cup for a year now and has been encouraging all the women in the department to take it up. "Many are scared to use but once they try the cups, they get used to it. Many women especially in traffic police struggle to work on ground during their periods as they need to stand out on roads for hours and there would be no washrooms. Some of them switched to menstrual cups after taking my suggestion and even got back to me saying that it has helped them a lot in many ways. It prevents rashes created by the pads, lessens period cramps and lets us carry out all the activities like on a normal day," she said.

Inter-state racket bust yields 11 kg hashish oil

The Kodigehalli police have busted an inter-state drug racket and arrested a 26-year-old man from Kerala who was peddling drugs in the city. The police recovered 11 kg of hashish oil worth Rs 11 crore from him.

"We were continuously monitoring the accused and nabbed him red-handed beneath Hebbal flyover on the evening of December 4 when he came to sell hashish oil. Then, we raided his house in Sahakarnagar and recovered 11 kg of hashish oil, a senior police officer said. Based on his information, a team headed to Kerala to look for others including the kingpin involved in the racket," CK Baba, DCP, north east division, said. The accused is a repeat offender involved in peddling cases in Banaswadi, Sadduguntepalya, Udupi, Mangaluru and other districts.

Hashish oil worth Rs 11 crore was recovered from the accused

The accused would source the drugs from neighbouring state of Andhra Pradesh and would rout the drugs into the city via Kottayam.

The accused would rent out houses in residential localities mainly to store the drugs, a police officer said . This is to avoid undue attention from the police, he added. — BMB

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WITH THE RANGE OF CARS IN SHOWROOMS TODAY, THERE IS ONE FOR EVERYONE

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A CAR FOR EVERYONE

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A decade back if you wanted to buy a car your options might have been limited based on the variants available and your budget. Times have changed as there a host of options to choose from. So much so that anyone can buy a car.

MICRO HATCHBACKS: ENTRY POINT INTO FOUR-WHEELERS

These cars are the smallest ones you can buy out there and for someone who's just making a shift from two wheels to four, it might just be the right segment to choose from. Aside from the ease of driving and parking on streets that seem like parking lots, these cars are extremely cheap to maintain. Keeping in mind that they come with small capacity engines (more often than not 1.0-litre or below), they promise to be efficient too despite being offered only with a petrol engine. However, it isn't all sunshine and rainbows for this class of cars. Built on a tight budget to keep the costs in check, the build quality of these offerings could be compromised.

MID-SIZED HATCHBACKS:

Offering more space, comfort and features than a micro-hatch, this segment is among the best-selling in India and rightly so. Highlight features include the option of airbags and ABS in the higher spec models - a must have in your car. Mid-sized hatchbacks also give you the option of choosing from a petrol or a diesel engine. To lug the additional weight that comes with the relatively larger proportions, these cars come with engines that produce more power and torque than a typical micro hatch. While these cars too are impressively efficient, the petrol iterations are unlikely to be as efficient as a micro hatch.

PREMIUM HATCHBACKS: PRACTICAL PURCHASES

Punchier than the segments mentioned above, and all-in-all extremely practical cars to buy. They even come heavily loaded with tech like parking sensors, Bluetooth, AUX and USB connectivity, driver side seat height adjustment and more. Some of these even come with airbags and ABS as standard equipment. Premium hatchbacks have all the right ingredients for someone who wants one car for all purposes - may it be your regular city commutes or even your occasional highway hauls. Also, if you are an enthusiast and want a fun to drive car, there are options in that department too.

COMPACT SEDANS: FOR THOSE OBSESSED WITH A BOOT

If you are the kind that often ventures out for a long drive with family and want more boot space than a premium hatch, cars in this segment are what you should look at. While the boot is larger, the space at the back is not compromised and more often than not suitable enough for three average sized adults. Despite the addition of the boot they continue to be under 4 metres in length to make the most out of the government subsidies, thereby making compact sedans smartly packaged cars. Meanwhile these cars come with all the features that a premium hatchback offers and then some. More or less based on hatchback designs, cars in this segment aren't built to win beauty pageants.

COMPACT SUVS: SWAG ON A BUDGET

Textbook examples of the famous saying 'looks can be deceptive'. A tall stance and higher ground clearance gives you the sense of them being larger than premium hatchbacks or compact sedans. However, strip them naked and you will see that they are based on the same platform and in most cases, are even powered by the same engines. If you want to flaunt your swag and have a linking for a high seating posture in your car, a car from this segment is for you.

Aside from all these segments, some lower spec variants of C-segment sedans may also be available under Rs 10 lakh.

Before you decide which brand or which car to buy, it is important to find out which of these segments suits your personality and your pocket the best.

Winter Wheels

HERE ARE A FEW TIPS TO HELP YOU KEEP YOUR CAR PROPERLY RUNNING DURING WINTERS

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Winter is here. And the change in weather that accompanies winter may harm your car. To take care of your vehicle during this period is essential. Here are some of the things you can do to keep your automobile in perfect working condition.

WIPE IT CLEAR

Winter brings about a decrease in visibility in many places. There is fog or smog in multiple parts of India during this season. Outside of fog lights, you will need a clear windscreen to give you as much visibility as possible. For that, windscreen wipers need replacement regularly, so does the wiper fluid. The latter will also be needed for the removal of dew that so often covers the car's windshields. Moreover, it is better to install specialized wipers if you live in the hills where it is likely to snow or if you are going to visit a snowy area for your holidays.

SMOOTH OPERATIONS

Car oil gets thicker during the cold. When that happens, it makes it difficult for the engine to work. The oil with higher viscosity will force its way into the engine and the oil filter, thereby not only improperly lubricating the motor but also damaging the oil filter. Therefore, it is necessary to change the oil regularly along with the filters for the proper functioning of the engine. Or, you can also install a higher quality oil filter to deal with increased pressure from the fluid. Therefore, it will be prudent to get a new oil filter in the coming season for your car.

A FULL TANK

Condensation is a significant problem for cars during winters. During this time, water condensates inside the fuel tank and then freezes. The freezing might even extend to fuel pipes and may result in the car not starting. That is why it is crucial to fill the fuel tank. Petrol or diesel does not heat as fast as water. This stops water inside the tank from condensing quickly. It is a small tip to keep your vehicle in optimum condition and running for a long time.

SIMPLE AND SURE

The final piece of advice is one of the simplest and also maybe the most important. Warming your engine before driving your car is an important step. Engines have been upgraded over time to withstand the cold much better than before. However, warming of the motor ensures that the oil reaches all parts of the engine before the car starts moving. This results in the proper lubrication of the automobile. Warming the engine will help your vehicle drive much better when it is cold.

Every bit of maintenance, and every little step that is taken for the upkeep of your car during winters matters. So you can do these things to keep your vehicle in top shape when it gets cold.

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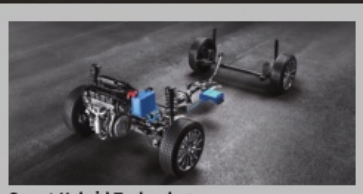
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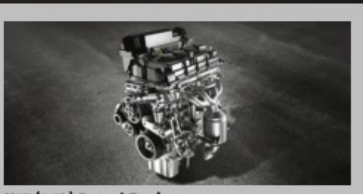
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Bravehearts' victory

Karnataka State Fire and Emergency Services personnel who risked their lives to save 60 men trapped under building debris, win gallantry awards

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PIC COURTESY: MOHAN KUMAR

On March 19, 2019, a team of fire personnel led by then CFO J H Ravi Shankar (inset) rescued people from the building collapse site

For the first time since 1964, five fire personnel from the Karnataka State Fire and Emergency Services were honoured with the President's medal for their valiant display of courage while rescuing nearly 60 men who were trapped under the debris of a four-storey commercial building that came crashing down in Dharwad in 2019. While at least 16 people lost their lives, the fire department had a huge role in rescuing the ones trapped, eyewitnesses pointed out.

The five brave fire personnel are J H Ravi Shankar, the then Chief Fire Officer (CFO) and now the Deputy Director (Technical) at the Fire and Emergency Services along with firemen Naveen Mallappa and Ashok Kenchappa Vodeyar, driver Siddappa Ramappa Upahar and Dharanesh Govind Honnahalli, a fireman from the Tumakuru Fire and Emergency Services. The five were conferred with the gallantry awards on December 6 in New Delhi.

On March 19, 2019, the under-construction building consisting of ground plus four floors collapsed in the busy streets of Dharwad district. According to the firemen, the building stood on a plot measuring 100x100 feet approximately, where over 70 people, mostly construction workers, were feared trapped under the debris.

Considering the gravity of the situation, senior fire officials had ordered air-dropping of the then CFO J H Ravishankar and his team from Bengaluru for emergency rescue operations. Under the guidance of senior officials, the team started the rescue operation by conducting size-up inspection of the collapsed structure for the amount and the extent of damage. "The locations of the possible victims, leaning walls, damaged structural elements and bulging walls were analysed. The horizontal shore was used for interior and exterior shoring," Ravishankar told Bangalore Mirror.

> **"Locations of possible victims, leaning walls, damaged structural elements and bulging walls were analysed before entering the operation**
> – JH Ravi Shankar, former CFO

The horizontal shore was then used primarily to support the damaged and leaning walls in hallways, alleys, access ways, air shafts and between structures. The main purpose of the shoring was to stabilise normal accesses that were compromised. Horizontal shoring provided a relatively safe area for both the fire personnel as well as the rescued victims.

Once ensuring safety of fellow rescue personnel and victims, CFO Ravishankar commanded his teams by taking multiple entries. Sources from the rescue team said, even the NDRF personnel were fearing to tread the path. This was one of the riskiest operations, but they had to save lives. Ravishankar entered through the cavity by cutting the slabs. Many rescuers also suffered injuries, however, that did not douse their spirit.

"Knowing that the precariously hanging slab could fall on the rescuers any time, they were ready to sacrifice their lives to save many others. Taking into consideration the team's valiant display of courage during the rescue operation, Ravishankar and his team has been conferred the president's gallantry medal," said sources from the Karnataka State Fire and Emergency Services.

HC denies Chinese woman's visa extension

The Karnataka High Court has rejected the plea of a Chinese national to direct authorities for an extension of her visa and said the decision to allow staying in India until the flight services to China resumed remained with the jurisdictional authorities.

The single bench headed by Justice Krishna S Dixit gave the order on Tuesday. The petitioner has been given a notice by the Foreigners Registration Office (FRRO) to 42-year-old Chinese woman Lee Dong to leave India and she has approached the court for extension of visa period. The Visa was granted to her on June 22, 2019 till August 30, 2019. The petitioner would have left India by then, the bench observed.

Her visa was extended in the backdrop of the covid pandemic till March 30, 2020. The petitioner has applied again with the authorities for further extension. Since the authorities have not taken any decision, the petitioner has approached the court, the bench said.

Foreigners can't be given more rights and facilities than they have as per international agreements. In this context, it becomes a matter of abstinence to question authorities on why she is being asked to leave the country. The bench further noted that the petitioner continued to stay in the country even without permission from the authorities.

According to law, foreigners should leave the country after expiry of their visa period. The petitioner's plea can't be considered as she is overstaying in the country. It is left to the discretion of the concerned authorities to take a call on allowing her to stay until flight services to China resumes, the bench stated.

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Kumara Krupa Road

Pet owners residing in Ward 93 of Kumara Krupa Road, take their dogs for a walk and don't clean up their excreta. The footpath opposite KK Guest House is filled with dog excreta and residents and pedestrians are unable to bear the stink. The health inspector should fine the offenders.

Danger point
Vasanth Nagar

A few protruding iron rods on Sankey Road near Windsor Manor in Vasanth Nagar are posing danger to pedestrians and motorists. Anyone can bump into the rods and meet with an accident. The BBMP and BTP should take measures to fix this.

Turn it off
Seshadripuram

A sodium vapour lamp on Railway Parallel Road in Seshadripuram keeps burning, even at 12 pm. It is a waste of resources. The authorities should fix this issue.

Fast-learners, multi-skilled are top candidates

As campus placements boom, we take a look at what makes a candidate well-placed to be placed

Hamza Irfan Qazi
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Colleges across Bengaluru are reporting a record-breaking increase in the number of students receiving campus placements this year despite the roadblocks by the pandemic. Top companies are hiring students who are eager to learn, are multiskilled and are easily adaptable to new technologies. "Companies are focusing on the learnability skills of candidates. It is difficult for them to get candidates that are custom made for their organization so what they are looking for is the potential in students to learn and upskill themselves", says Dr BM Rajprakash, head of training and placements at University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering.

While the number of students being placed has increased, the competition for spots in top companies has also gotten more intense. Top companies are looking for even more skilled and qualified candidates, and the number of interview rounds to get into such companies has increased as compared to before.

In an age where technology is evolving rapidly, companies are on the lookout for those who are quick to catch up with new technologies and can adapt quickly to changing environments.

"Technology is growing exponentially. In this fast-changing environment, students need to match up with the speed of changing technologies. The generation gap with respect to technology is just 24 hours. Whatever is learnt yesterday becomes obsolete today. Students need to develop a love for learning to make it in the industry", says Dr Savitha Rani, Head of Training and Placement Department at Ramaiah Institute of Technology. Dr Savitha has won several awards for her role in youth empowerment by facilitating placements for the new generation entering the industry.

Gone are the days where mastering one skill was enough to make it in the industry. Companies are now on the lookout for students who are skilled in categories other than their primary ones. Dr Savitha explains, "Companies do not hire people, they hire skills. Students should develop "T" shaped growth. Inch wide and mile deep. For example, a chemical engineer has to also be 2% civil engineer, 4% computer science engineer and 2% electronics engineer. One has to be a jack of all trades and a Columbus in their own field."

The feather in the cap of the placements department at Ramaiah Institute of Technology is Apple recruiting 3 students from the college. The annual CTC is over Rs 30 Lakh.

Other top companies that are hiring students from Bengaluru include Amazon, Axis Bank and Oracle. The CTC ranges anywhere between Rs 8 lakh p.a to Rs 40 lakh p.a. Companies are also looking for candidates with high aptitude capabilities and good communication skills. Those with confidence and the ability to work in teams are also getting ahead. Colleges are also reporting a change in the manner in which students are recruited. More companies are conducting recruitment drives online. A student sitting in Bangalore may be picked up by a company interviewing them from Mumbai or even New York, as international placements are also on the rise. Companies like Emrill, Shoba constructions and JP Morgan are among the international companies hiring students from Bangalore.

In this new environment where work from home and even interviews from home are becoming the norm, having a fast and stable internet connection and a decent personal computer is essential along with being multiskilled and up-to-date with the latest technology. Those without these features are missing out on opportunities. "Many excellent students are missing out on opportunities as they are unable to deliver their personalities and skills across during online interviews. Some of them face issues with their internet or mic which interrupts recruiters from understanding their potential well enough. I believe offline recruitments are better than online ones," says Rajalakshmi, training and placements at Xavier's College, Bengaluru.

Set up career guidance centre of excellence, suggests K'taka task force

The task force formed under 'Mission Yuva Samruddhi' which is to create 1 crore employment in 5 years has recommended on Wednesday to set up 'Karnataka Career Guidance Center of Excellence' akin to KDEM (Karnataka Digital Economy Mission).

In a meeting chaired by C N Ashwatha Narayana, Minister for IT/BT and Skill Development, the task force submitted the interim report and stated, the final report will be ready in ten days.

This independent body has the objective of improving the employability and skill sets of youth.

The task force has felt the need for 'Karnataka Career Guidance Center of Excellence's, there is no systematic career guidance in the state as of now. Multiple models are in existence and there is a need to create a common framework for career guidance from school to college to employment, it has pointed out.

The task force has recommended focusing on imparting digital Skills and creating entrepreneurial mindsets, providing career Information and guidance, youth incubation, creating entrepreneurial ecosystems @ Districts, agriculture and agri-Tech, Minister Narayana has told.

"To impart digital skills and 21st-century skills framework at the stage of Class 6-12, it has suggested to launch YW NXT & YuWaah Skills, a national level initiative across the state and to facilitate this, the Department of Education/ PU Board/ ITIs should sign MOUs with UNICEF. Digital Skills for PUC/Vocational Students should be piloted in Kalika Kendras set up by RDPR at Gram Panchayats", he explained.

An eight-credit course on entrepreneurship development at the graduation level under NEP should be introduced and VTU/KSHEC should create a working group to create a curriculum and institutionalize this across all Universities.

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No city for bicycle parking

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

shopping: "The guard told us that we cannot park our bicycles and that there was no place for bicycle parking there. When we asked if we can park in the two-wheeler parking area, he told us to park at our own risk." The cyclist refused to park his bike at the mall in the absence of adequate security.

Since his house was about 4 km from the mall, parking at his home was not an option either.

He has been cycling since sixth standard and used to cycle to school every day. "Cycling is the least we can do for the environment. With fuel prices soaring, cycling is a more feasible solution. I want to reduce my carbon footprint," he added.

BM spoke to the shopping mall management too.

"Being lightweight, cycles are prone to theft. We allow bicycle parking in the premises free of cost but take no responsibility," said an official from the mall.

Modern bicycles come at a substantial price, costing anywhere between Rs 10,000 - Rs 2 lakh. An average cycle is priced between Rs 30,000 - Rs 50,000 as most bikes are imported. Indian branded cycles favoured by amateurs do not appeal to people who cycle long distances as they are cumbersome.

Enthusiasts told BM that cyclists who actively make sacrifices in their

everyday life to live sustainably are being penalised by authorities/ employers denying them parking spaces.

"We are not equipped to handle cycles in public spaces. There is no space to park. To ensure the safety of the cycles, the riders just strap the cycles somewhere. Most shopkeepers do not like cycles being parked in front of their stores either," said Vidhya Chandran, founder of SpokesWomen, an all-women cycling club.

Chandran added that except for a few workplaces, most employers don't provide parking spaces for those who cycle to work: "There are very few companies (Bosch for instance, does), that offer bicycle parking and make provision for employees to shower after they arrive in offices," she added.

As she primarily works from home, Chandran's commute is currently limited to going to the gym or meeting friends, but she too has to face the issue of looking for a place to park. Chandran said if you build a rapport with the security guards they allow you to park but there are no designated spots.

"With India setting bigger targets to become emission-free, more public spaces need to step up and start providing parking for cyclists. There is no need to discriminate between cyclists and two-wheelers, as they both perform the same role as consumers and commuters. The image of the bicycle needs to change from an exercising tool to a utility," bicycle mayor Sankaran told BM.

Under the Green Business initiative, the Centre for Active Mobility (CFAM) is trying to list businesses that encourage cycling and promote them in the cycling community.

According to Sankaran, building infrastructure for bicycle parking is not as complicated as two-wheeler parking: "All you need is space, preferably towards the entrance and within the purview of the security staff, and a couple of U-racks to lock the cycles in."

Underpass Undermined

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

underpass. However, the earlier plan had to be shelved as it was termed 'unscientific' after the work had started. Hence, the project was stopped midway. The earlier design was rejected as it was 'creating hurdles for motorists while negotiating the entry to the underpass'.

When the NHAI sought permission from the traffic police to construct an underpass at Sadahalli Junction, the cops had said that they needed to wait till completion of Aero India in 2019 so that the works could resume. Then, when the works were to finally start in mid-2019, the concessionaire was told to complete the project before February 2021, as the city geared up for another Aero India. However, the project is yet to take off.

The underpass was to ensure a signal-free road from Hebbal to the Trumpet Interchange. A 'bhoomi pooja' (ground-breaking ceremony) for the project was also completed a few years ago.

The NHAI officials also hinted that the work may begin in a fortnight to a month's time.

"The work has been assigned to the concerned concessionaire who will be responsible for the construction and maintenance of the underpass," said an NHAI official.

As per the initial plan, the underpass was planned with six lanes (three lanes on each side) and was expected to finish work in six to nine months' time.

Even after five years, the project is still in limbo. Despite building six grade separators between Hebbal and the Trumpet interchange, the NHAI failed to construct one near Sadahalli Gate so far.

According to an official, when the detailed project report (DPR) was prepared for the construction of the airport highway, it was perceived that there was no need to construct a grade separator at Sadahalli Cross Road. "However, once the road was open for traffic, Sadahalli Cross Road Junction turned out to be a major bottleneck. Hence, as a temporary measure a traffic signal was installed to regulate traffic," the official said.

The NHAI wanted to take up the underpass work in mid-2016, however the police denied permission saying that the work may go beyond 2017, and it may affect the traffic during the 14th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (which Bengaluru was hosting then for the first time) and later, the Aero India show.

Then, there was a change in concessionaires managing the airport expressway. Meanwhile, the NHAI had taken up a pedestrian overpass and the traffic police wanted the concessionaire to complete it before taking up the Sadahalli Gate project. The permission was denied again as Bengaluru was gearing up to host 2019 Aero India.

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The House of the rich and mighty

Most candidates contesting for the Upper House in the legislature are crorepatis

The Upper House in the legislature is usually called a podium of intellectuals. But, this may not be true anymore, as a criteria seems to be wealth. It seems to have become the battleground for rich candidates contesting elections.

Election is being conducted for 25 seats in 20 districts of the state and almost all the candidates irrespective of the party, are crorepatis.

The average assets of each candidate are more than Rs.10 crore. Now, there is a feeling among the public that the Upper House is only for the rich and mighty and people without money cannot contest.

As each vote is valuable, all the parties selected the candidates who are wealthy. Cash and gifts that can grab voters are up for grabs too. Though gold costs Rs.45,000 a gram, candidates are trying to woo the women voters with gold ornaments.

In this election, Congress and BJP each fielded 20 candidates and JDS fielded them only at seven constituencies. Even independent candidate Lakhan Jarkiholi is a crorepati. All the candidates are worth Rs.3,123 crore. Yusuf Sharif is worth Rs.1,743 crore; BSomashekar, worth Rs139 crore; YM Satish Rs.137 crore; Ramesh Gowda Rs.89 crore; Appaji Gowda worth Rs.88 crore; Bookahalli Manju is worth Rs.66 crore; Bheemanna Nayka is worth Rs.6 crore; Suraj Revanna is worth Rs.61 crore; Gopinath Reddy is worth Rs.51.15 crore; N Lokesh is worth Rs.51.13 crore. The total worth of Congress candidates is Rs. 2,210 crore, BJP candidates is Rs.587 crore and JDS candidates is Rs.259 crore. The poorest is Anilkumar, a Congress candidate from Kolar. He is worth only Rs 1 crore! **— Prakash VL**

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I, Kiran Jain R/o A2702 Brigade Exotica Old Madras Road Virgo Nagar Post Budigiri Cross Bangalore 560049 have changed my minor daughter's name from Aditi Gyanachand Jain to Aditi Jain for all purposes.

I, Shivaramu Y P R/o No 287 Jp Nagar 9 Th Phase Avalahalli Amrutha Nagar Main Rd B'lore have changed my minor son's name from Pradyumna S Heggade to Navaneeth S Heggade for all purposes.

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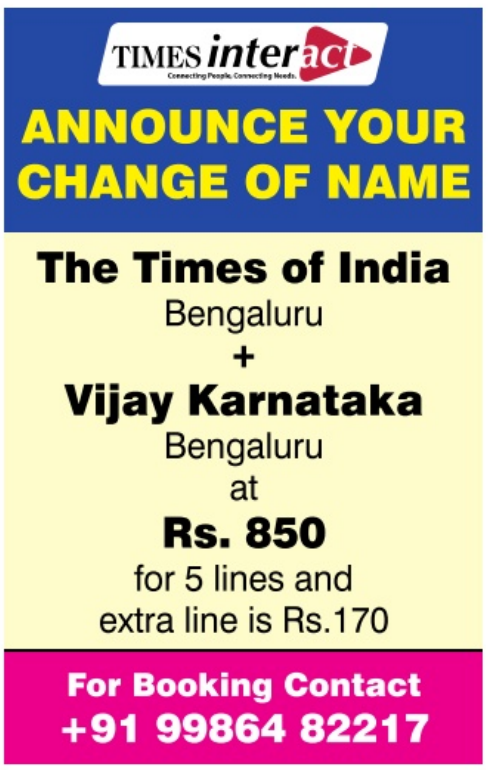


Protest not yet off, but farmers accept proposal

#NEW DELHI

Samyukta Kisan Morcha, an aegis of farmer unions, has formed a consensus to accept the proposal sent by the central government seeking suspension of the farmers' agitation.

A five-member committee of Samyukt Kisan Morcha held a meeting on Wednesday morning to take a decision on the proposal.

"We have accepted the revised draft given by the Centre over our demands in regard to farmers' agitation against three farm laws," said Gurnam Singh Charuni, chief of Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) Haryana. The Morcha will, however, meet at 12 noon on Thursday at Singhu Border to take a formal decision on lifting the agitation. They are waiting for a formal communication signed on the Government's letterhead.

"We will hold a meeting again tomorrow as soon we receive a formal letter from Centre. Protest is still underway," said Charuni.

The agitation will not be suspended until Samyukta Kisan Morcha receives a formal letter from the government mentioning the draft agreed upon.

"The agitation will go on. Talks have been going on for years. Until something concrete comes, everything is speculation," Charuni added. According to the farmers' body, the government in its earlier proposal urged the protesting farmers to call off their agitation first and then only cases against them will be taken back.

Freshers can cash in on jobs at banks, NBFCs

Over 70,000 freshers likely to be added to payrolls of banks in the next three years

#MUMBAI

Study shows freshers will make nearly a fourth of entry-level jobs

Banks and NBFCs are expected to add more than 70,000 freshers to their payrolls in the next three years as they expand their footprint and add feet on the street to service more customers, an estimate by TeamLease shows. As per experts, freshers are crucial for the BFSI (banking, financial services and insurance) segment to meet surging volume demand and they could make up nearly a fourth of entry-level jobs.

"Recovery of the residential real estate market and rising salaries in technology and related sectors seem to be having a positive impact on the BFSI sector," said Amit Vadera, head staffing-BFSI & govt at TeamLease Services. "In fact, this positivity is having a ripple impact on the hiring by the BFSI sector as well. Volume demand in BFSI, to some extent, will be addressed by hiring freshers," Vadera added. As per TeamLease, hiring in the BFSI sector in the past six months has gone up over 25% and organisations are heavily investing in the workforce to bridge the skill gap these freshers may have.

Private lender HDFC Bank, which aims to reach 200,000 villages in the next 24 months, has plans to hire more than 2,500 people in the next six months, while the Shriram Group is hiring 5,000 people across its many companies. ICICI Home Finance is looking to onboard 600 employees by December while Kotak Mahindra Bank, too, has resumed hiring at closer to pre-Covid levels.

"With normalisation returning, we are strengthening functions such as sales, credit, collections and support for supporting our growth plans across the group," Shriram City Union Finance managing director YS Chakravarti said. "We are acquiring talent across diversified portfolios such as home loans, APF (approved project finance) and cross-sell verticals. At Shriram Life Insurance, we are developing our distribution models that would help us expand our rural presence and tap the rural customer segments."

Financial institutions had brought hiring to a halt but now with businesses returning to normalcy, companies are adding to their full-time workforce. According to an HSBC survey, most Indian businesses are investing in their workforce as they look to rebuild from the pandemic and fuel growth ambitions.

-- By Saloni Shukla, ET

SPORT

Rohit Sharma replaces Kohli as ODI captain

#NEW DELHI

Opener Rohit Sharma replaced Virat Kohli as India's one-day captain on Wednesday, thus taking charge of both the white-ball squads ahead of their tour of South Africa later this month.

Kohli led India in all three formats until the Twenty20 World Cup last month, after which he relinquished 20-overs captaincy which went to Rohit.

Many expected Kohli, who remains the test captain, to lead India in the 50-overs World Cup on home soil in 2023 but the board opted for a single white-ball skipper.

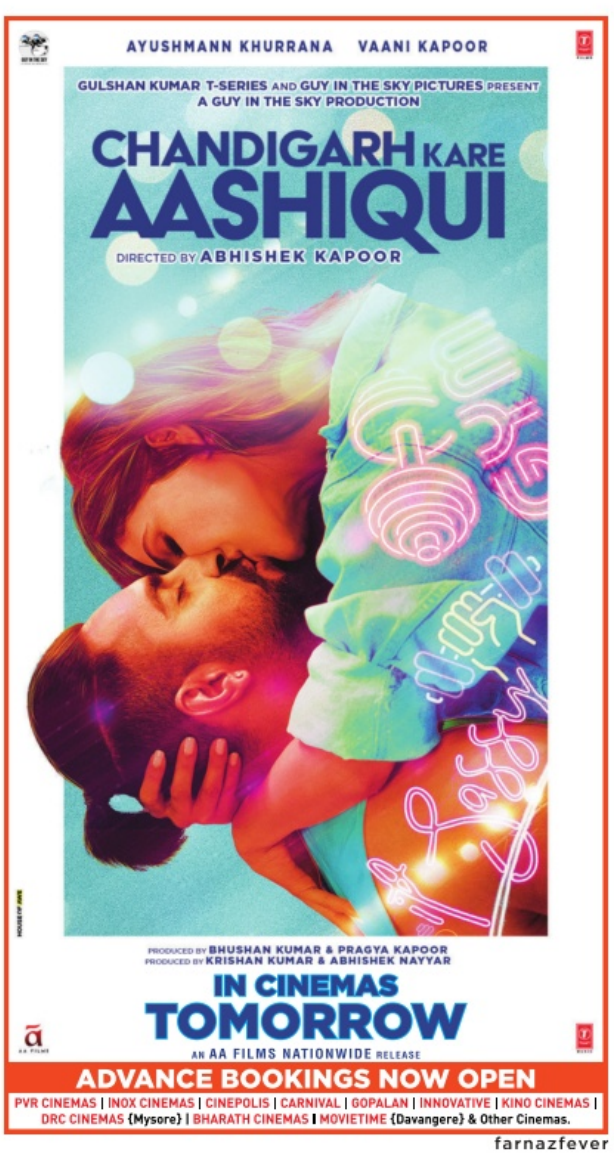
"The All-India Senior Selection Committee ... decided to name Mr Rohit Sharma as the captain of the ODI & T20I teams going forward," board secretary Jay Shah said in a statement.

Under Kohli, India reached the semi-finals of the 50-overs World Cup in 2019 but could not advance beyond the group stage at this year's T20 World Cup in the United Arab Emirates.

In further indication of Rohit's growing stature within the team, the 34-year-old also replaced fellow Mumbai player Ajinkya Rahane as vice-captain of the test side.

Rahane is part of the 18-member squad that will travel to South Africa but must snap his woeful run of form to maintain his place in the side.

Beginning on Dec. 26, India are scheduled to play three tests in South Africa, followed by three one-day internationals. Rohit, who was rested for the home series against New Zealand, returns to the test side, along with fellow opener KL Rahul, first-choice wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant and fast bowlers Mohammed Shami and Jasprit Bumrah.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A GUY IN THE SKY PRODUCTION
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farnazfever

'We rescued 2, but they were struggling for life'

Eye-witness on crash; chopper went down minutes before it was to land

#NEW DELHI

A man who lives near the site where an Indian Air Force (IAF) helicopter carrying CDS Gen Bipin Rawat among 14 others crashed on Wednesday, said he saw 12 bodies scattered near the site of the accident.

India's first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), Gen Bipin Rawat, his wife, and 11 others were killed when their IAF Mi-17 helicopter crashed near Coonoor in Tamil Nadu's Nilgiris district, the IAF said. "With deep regret, it has now been ascertained that Gen Bipin Rawat, Mrs Madhulika Rawat and 11 other persons on board have died in the unfortunate accident," the IAF said in a tweet.

Ravi, an eye witness, said two persons -- whose suffered serious burn injuries, were rescued from the ill-fated chopper but they were struggling for life. Ravi, who lives near the crash site at Coonoor in Tamil Nadu, told IANS: "I heard a loud sound and found the helicopter in flames and coming down. I rushed to the spot with a few local residents and found 12 charred bodies... we rescued two persons but they were struggling for life. An ambulance took them to the Army hospital, Wellington."

The chopper, with a total of 14 persons, took off from the Sulur air base near Coimbatore and was on its way to Coonoor. When the chopper was a few minutes away from landing, it, as per eyewitnesses, hit a tree, crashed, and caught fire, resulting in several casualties. **–IANS**

Mortal remains to arrive in Delhi today

The mortal remains of Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat and his wife along with other armed forces personnel who died is expected to arrive in Delhi by Thursday evening. The IAF has issued a list of names of General Rawat's staff who were on-board the crashed chopper. These include Brigadier LS Lidder, Lieutenant Colonel Harjinder Singh, NK Gursewak Singh, NK Jitendra Kumar, L/NK Vivek Kumar, L/NK B Sai Teja, and Hav Satpal.

GEN BIPIN RAWAT: 16-03-1958 - 08-12-2021

People help carry body of one of the victims from near the site of an IAF Mi-17V5 helicopter crash in Coonoor, Tamil Nadu, on Wednesday; The charred remains of the chopper

Mi17V5 is advanced transport helicopter with IAF

#NEW DELHI

The Mi17V5 helicopter, which crashed on Wednesday, is an advanced military transport chopper that has been with the Indian Air Force (IAF) since 2012. Manufactured by Russian Helicopters' subsidiary Kazan, the helicopter has an onboard weather radar and is equipped with the latest generation of night vision devices.

However, IAF's Mi17V5 chopper has been involved in quite a few incidents during the last decade.

This helicopter has the new PKV-8 autopilot system and a KNEI-8 avionics suite. It can carry a maximum take off weight of 13,000 kg and maximum payload weight of 4,000 kg.

India had in 2008 signed a deal with Russia to induct 80 Mi17V5 medium lift helicopters for strengthening its chopper fleet for humanitarian and disaster relief missions and transport operations.

The contract was later expanded for delivery of 151 Mi17V5 helicopters. In February 2012, the IAF had formally inducted Mi17V5 helicopters from Russia to enhance its operational capabilities including carrying troops and cargo to high altitude areas. **—PTI**

Outstanding soldier, true patriot; India won't forget his service: PM

Paying rich tributes to Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday that he was an outstanding soldier and a true patriot who greatly contributed to modernising India's armed forces and security apparatus. In his condolence message, Modi said he was deeply anguished by the helicopter crash. They served India with utmost diligence, Modi said, adding that his thoughts are with the bereaved families.

"Gen Bipin Rawat was an outstanding soldier. A true patriot, he greatly contributed to modernising our armed forces and security apparatus."

"His insights and perspectives on strategic matters were exceptional. His passing away has saddened me deeply... He brought with him a rich experience of serving in the Army. India will never forget his exceptional service," the prime minister tweeted.

Condolences pour in

Deeply anguished by the sudden demise of Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat, his wife and 11 other armed forces personnel. His untimely death is an irreparable loss to our armed forces and the country

-Defence Minister Rajnath Singh

I extend my condolences to the family of Gen Bipin Rawat and his wife. This is an unprecedented tragedy and our thoughts are with their family in this difficult time.

-Congress leader Rahul Gandhi

"He was one of the bravest soldiers, who has served the motherland with utmost devotion. His exemplary contributions and commitment cannot be put into words. I am deeply pained,"

-Home Minister Amit Shah

"I am shocked and anguished over the untimely demise of Gen. Bipin Rawat and his wife, Madhulika Ji. The nation has lost one of its bravest sons. His four decades of selfless service to the motherland was marked by exceptional gallantry and heroism. My condolences to his family,"

-President Ram Nath Kovind

43 yrs of service & the commander was still in thick of things

After 43 years in service, Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat (63) was tasked with making the Indian military modern and capable of dealing with any emerging security challenges on the Northern or Western borders.

General Rawat took charge as India's first Chief of Defence Staff on January 1, 2020. The position was created to integrate the three services -- Army, Navy and Air Force. The CDS is mandated to facilitate integration, ensure best economical use of resources allocated to the armed forces and bring uniformity in the procurement procedure.

As CDS, General Rawat was also the Principal Military Advisor to the Defence Minister on all tri-services matters.

Later, he was also appointed as the head of the newly-created Department of Military Affairs.

On December 17, 2016, the government had appointed him as the 27th Chief of the Army Staff. He took charge on December 31, 2016, after

General Bipin Rawat with wife Madhulika who was also killed

the retirement of General Dalbir Singh Suhag. He had assured the government that the Army, Navy and Air Force will work as a team and the CDS will ensure integration among the three forces. He played a key role in ensuring optimum utilisation of allocated budget, ushering more synergy in procurement, training and operations of the services through joint planning and integration.

He facilitated indigenisation of weapons and equipment to the maximum extent possible while formulating the overall defence acquisition plan for the three services.

When he took over as Chief of Defence Staff, General Rawat vowed to work to create more synergy among the three services. "The CDS is mandated to facilitate integration, ensure best economical use of resources allocated to the armed forces and bring uniformity in the procurement procedure," he had said. Before being appointed as the CDS, he had served as Indian Army chief for three years. **—IANS**

HEALTH TIP: The basics of a low-carb diet is to eat protein-rich foods like meat, fish and eggs or tofu, soya and legumes

Eating food rich in protein, calcium and vitamin D can help to reduce the fat from the mid-section

BEST OF
DR MAHINDER WATSA

The finest responses of Dr Watsa are being republished in this column as a tribute to him.

1 I am a 29-year-old man. I have been masturbating regularly for the last five years. I'm quite addicted to it and it is affecting my daily life. I Googled to check how to stop masturbation. But that is not working for me. I am basically very weak and cannot seem to increase my weight, and I feel tired all the time. After masturbation, I experience even more weakness. I have controlled for three months in the past. I need to control totally. Please help.

Masturbation is a good substitute for intercourse. If done with common sense (perhaps, masturbate twice a week), it is healthy. Check with your doctor if you are worried about your general health.

2 I am a 72-year-old widower with hardly any opportunity for female company. I have been meeting escorts and have been using condoms. Recently, I have gotten friendly with a like-minded woman and the relationship is moving steadily and hopefully will result in a long-term thing relationship that includes sex. I have so far not pushed for sex as I am not sure of myself, due to my past encounters with escorts. I would like to get myself tested to make sure that I do not in any way endanger my partner. I understand that even with condoms, there remains a small risk. Hence, if you can kindly suggest some diagnostic tests, I will like to get myself tested and then only decide on further action.

This is a wise decision. Please visit a good pathology lab and test for an STD or HIV.

MEET THE SEXPERTS

Use this QR code to send your questions to us

2022: A Space Odyssey

This festive season, revamp your house by adding new furniture and decoratives

The New Year is approaching, and as another year draws to a close, the need to remodel and restore your home is very real, because a small change in the environment always brings out the positive vibes. You've come to the proper place if this is your first time remodelling your wonderful home or if you're thinking about redoing your area.

Here are ten must-haves for everyone looking to renovate or refurbish their area, with something for everyone:

Appliances for your daily chores

Dishwasher

One of the most relaxing yet exciting areas in the house. Cooking takes a long time, and washing the dishes takes even longer. In today's hybrid workplace, it's critical to keep track of time, and a sink full of cutlery isn't going to help. They save water, save time, don't take up a lot of room, and get the utensils squeaky clean and dry.

Robot vacuum

Efficiency is crucial. Robot vacuums are as practical as they are fashionable for any new place. This small beast is low maintenance, covers all of the nooks and crannies of the house, and is quite easy to operate.

Kitchen appliances

Coffee machine

When it comes to regular duties, saving time during the day is a significant plus. Coffee makers, which are always dependable, fall into the same category of efficient performance. A quick coffee break will not only revive you, but it will also allow you to sample a variety of coffees. You might look at several small, simple coffee makers on the market, which can produce seven various varieties of coffee. These are not only time-saving and easy, but they help keep your kitchen counter clean by preventing spills.

Toaster

Bread is one of the most common foods in modern households. You can capture the day with a serving of hot, crispy toast drizzled with scrumptious butter, jam, spreads, or peanut butter if you have a hassle-free toaster that can catch the crumbs.

Chimney/kitchen hood

Cooking generates a lot of heat and steam, which makes the kitchen extremely uncomfortable to be in, especially during the summer. A chimney or kitchen hood is a fantastic investment since it not only improves the kitchen atmosphere by removing all smoke, but it also beautifies your kitchen and makes it the focal point of your home.

Furniture

Folding Sofa-cum-Bed

Without a question, this piece of furniture is at the top of the must-have furniture list. The foldable sofa-cum-bed is ideal for your binge-watching sessions and saves a lot of space. When friends or guests come to visit or stay overnight, you can easily accommodate additional people. The utility stays the same, and it is competitively priced for its characteristics. It is available in a variety of colours, fabrics, and styles. Get a great price at your local furniture store or place an order online.

Stools and bean bags

If you have an open kitchen, fancy stools might brighten up your living space. Simply select your favourite style of stools and bean bags, which are available in a variety of colours, forms, and sizes. These chairs and bean bags can suit your children's dynamic games if they are young and have playdates. The open kitchen can be enhanced with bar stools and pedestal stools. They're also ideal for casual browsing or socialising with friends over drinks and dinner when they come over.

Swing chair or a hammock

A swing chair or a suspended chair with a beautiful design can create a chic space in a well-lit corner of the house for reading or simply relaxing. If you have a spacious portion across your living room or your bedroom, a mini-hammock can help you get through those power naps. Hammocks and swings, as furniture and accessories, lend a touch of comfort to any room. You can buy one from a local furniture store or order one online, or you can make one yourself at home. If you have children, they will adore this!

Décor

Outdoor lighting

While some houses neglect their balconies, you might give yours a makeover for evening tea or simply to watch the sunset. Your balcony can be brightened with some local fairy lights, color-changing strips, LED lights, or antique pieces. Soft-hued light panels may completely change the look of a room and infuse it with a positive energy. Before keeping the doors and windows open, make sure mosquito repellents are in place!

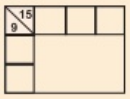
Home audio systems

For a complete entertainment experience, give your living room and TV set a distinct style with minimalistic wireless soundbars. Soundbars, with their elegant design, are ideal for setting the scene for those times when you have a house party or a housewarming party as new residents.

– IANS

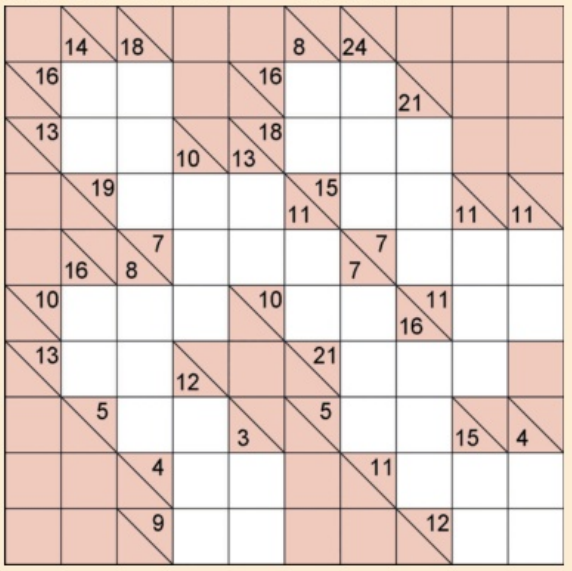
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

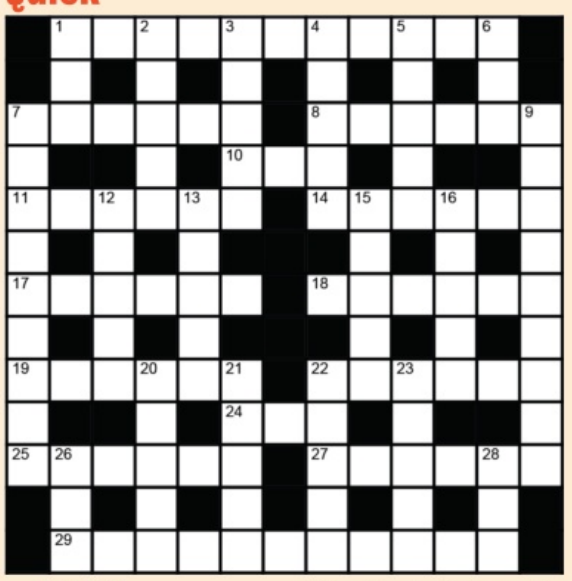


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Collaboration (11)
7 Indian state bordering China (6)
8 Popular dating app (6)
10 Actress Longoria (3)
11 Looks after the sick (6)
14 Former opening batsman Gambhir (6)
17 Tell a story (6)
18 Occur (6)
19 Olympic gold medallist ___ Chopra (6)
22 Untidy states (6)
24 Greek vowel (3)
25 African antelope (6)
27 Dig up (6)
29 Puts parts together again (11)

DOWN

1 Luau dish (3)
2 Long handled tools used to gather leaves, grass, etc. (5)
3 Designations (5)
4 Replace an informative attachment (5)
5 Follower of major Indian religion (5)
6 Prefix for fix (3)
7 Festival celebrated in January (9)
9 Talk about old times (9)
12 Lunar valley (5)
13 Bit player (5)
15 Open-mouthed (5)
16 Records (5)
20 Cowboy's rope, lasso (5)
21 Denim pants (5)
22 Polite address to a woman (5)
23 Odour (5)
26 Spoil (3)
28 Sparse fluid (3)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: L EQUALS Y

CFNNW ZIS LNY'VV TU CFUW-WUS NI; CFZIS FZVV ZIS LNY'VV TU CGNF ZF.

Linemaro

I can tell by the way you are ignoring me that I fascinate you

Mindchow

No matter how serious your situation is, you need a friend to act goofy with

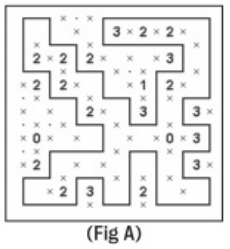
Joke of the day

My first job was working in an orange juice factory, but I got canned, I couldn't concentrate

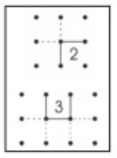
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

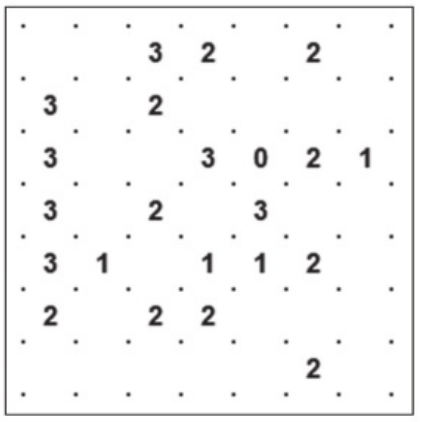


(Fig B) Not Allowed

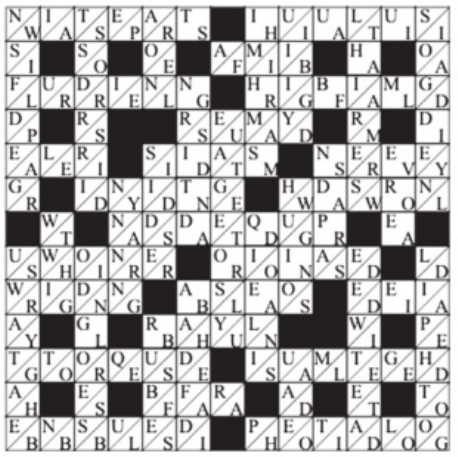
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



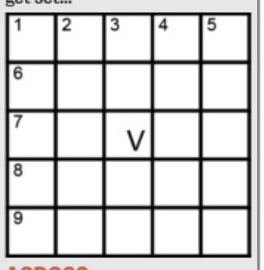
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 If lac; 6 Ale be;
7 Var in; 8 Canoe;
9 By III

DOWN

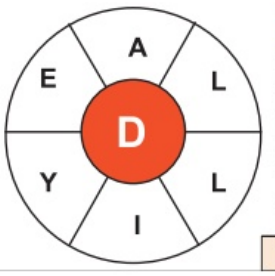
1 Cobra; 2 I a cab;
3 LL Eve; 4 All II;
5 NY fen

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?

1	7	9
3	6	3
5	4	2
2	7	5
2	6	?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

19 Average; 21 Good; 23 Outstanding

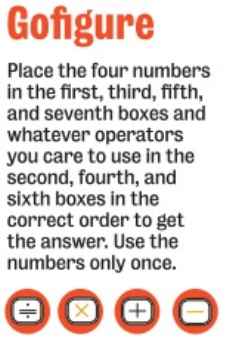
SudokuChallenge

5				3				7
		3	8		6	9		
6			5		7			2
1	4						8	9
		8				2		
2	6						3	4
4			9		5			3
		5	3		4	1		
8				1				5

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

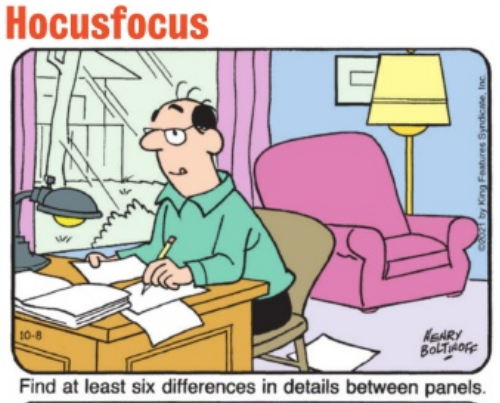


Easy = 2
1 4 5 6

Medium = 32
4 5 6 7

Hard = 6
2 2 3 2

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Paper on floor is moved. 2. Rug is missing from chair legs. 3. Chair is moved. 4. Pencil is shorter. 5. Roof overhang is not as long. 6. Bush is missing.

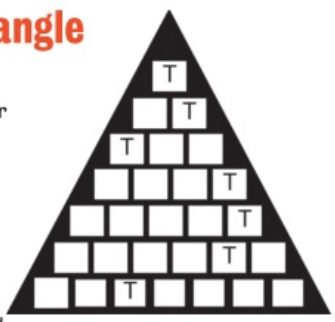
Riddler

Every clue below can be answered with a two word phrase in which each word contains OR. Your job is to figure out what they are. Good luck.

1. Piece of paper you fill out in a catalogue
2. Twining plant with funnel-shaped flowers
3. Pyongyang's country
4. Neighbourhood place to buy a quart of milk

Alpha triangle

1 Tonne, abbr.
2 Near to
3 Convert to leather
4 Tidy
5 Had in mind
6 Prison resident
7 Early show



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

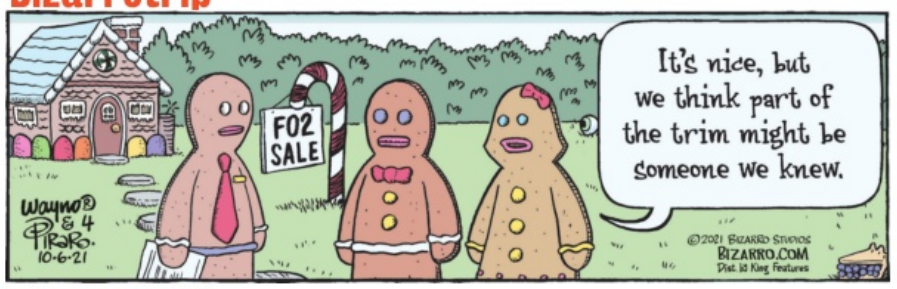
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

REDEYE SAID THAT THE MEN WHO VOLUNTEER FOR THIS RAID STAND A VERY GOOD CHANCE OF NOT COMING BACK!
I'LL GO!
ME TOO!
WHY NOT?
COUNT ME IN!
I'M READY
YO!
LET'S GO
OKAY!
ME
I WONDER WHY IT'S ALWAYS THE MARRIED GUYS WHO VOLUNTEER FOR THESE KINDS OF JOBS?
Walter Carson

Bizarrotrip


F02 SALE
It's nice, but we think part of the trim might be someone we knew.
Wayno & Piraro 10-6-21
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BIZARRO.COM
Dist. by King Features

Diamond Lil

I WENT TO THAT NEW PLACE FOR LUNCH TODAY
IT'S CALLED THE RAGWEED CAFE
WHAT DID YOU HAVE?
A SNEEZER SALAD
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Hart of the city

THE POST-TRIP NAP IS THE BEST KIND OF NAP.
THE SILENCE ISN'T TOO BAD EITHER.
HART OF THE CITY © 2021 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@OOONICS.COM/JEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

'"Mordor Financial" would never return my calls...
'So I decided to go to their office in New York to talk to them...
'And tell them what the "Centerville Sentinel" meant to our community.'
MORDOR FINANCIAL
BATUK & DAVIS
10-2

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today is a favourable day, filled with enthusiasm. Your focus is good in terms of business and work. You are dedicatedly performing the given task and may expect a promotion. Your boss may be in your favour in terms of work-related decisions there may be some visit to religious place. It is advised to avoid ego and arrogance in your love life.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may feel dull because of lack of proper rest. Your arrogance may lead to some disputes with the spouse; it may affect harmony in your domestic life. Investors are advised to avoid make new investments into risky assets. Students are advised to focus themselves towards their study. Love birds should keep distance in relationships.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you are advised to keep patience. If you are planning for adventure tour, you are advised to postpone it for a while. Your past investments may convert into a non-performing asset. You may get tired due to overwork. Students are advised to work hard. You may have backache, nervous system, skinnand lever-related issues.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today will be good. Investors may get good gains in their investments; it may boost your financial health. Money which was stuck, may get recovered; it may increase liquidity in the business. You may become confident and gain control over hidden enemies and opponents. Singles will find their match in the same field or at workplace.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may perform your best at work. You may have good bonding with the seniors; you may get some new responsibilities in terms of promotions. Chronic health issues may be cured. You may get good reciprocation for our work. Disputes with siblings may get resolved now. Job seekers may find a new job.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may be busy with kids' academics; you may plan for their higher studies also. Couples may hear good news in terms of kid. You may plan to update yourself and make plans for higher studies to get promotion in the current job. Singles may find their soulmate.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may escape from the reality. You may not be able to take your responsibilities. Your investments may incur you loss. You are advised to read documents carefully before signing them. Elders' health may make you upset. You may plan to reconstruct your house, it is advised to postpone renovation for a while.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may help needy people; it may increase your social respect. You may also put your hundred per cent effort in your work; as a result, the work will complete before time. You may hear some good news from your sibling. Too much work may make you tired; you are advised to avoid stress today, otherwise stress can affect your professional and personal life. You are advised to meditate and fast today.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may be busy in family social and family events; you may become polite with people around you, which may increase your image among relatives and friends. You will spend money in buying some artefacts and other stuffs, which will improve your social status. You may hear some good news from one of your close relative.

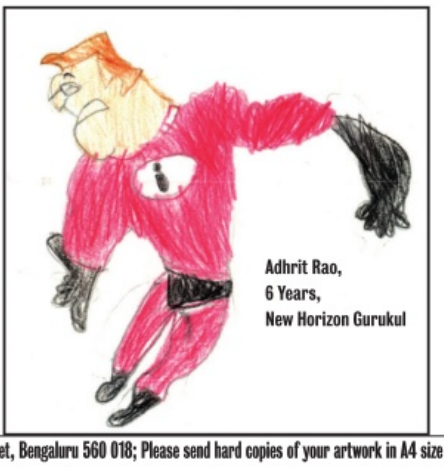
Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, disputes with siblings may settle down, it may boost your relationship. Your vital force seems to be good, it may help you to complete difficult project easily. You may expand your network after a short work-related trip. You may also help some needy person, it may increase your social status.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today you may feel dull, you may have some health issues also. An old health condition may reappear. You are advised to avoid adventure tour or rash driving. You may have some conflicts with the partner, so avoid making important decisions in terms of business. Investments in business or work is advised to be postponed. By late evening, things may come under control.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, your internal power may make you happy; you may get short gains from investments. You may make good relation with your boss. You may get promoted. Your status in the society may increase. You may also expect some work-related trips.

KIDZONE

Srisha Bhatia, 7 Years Delhi Public School



Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
6+24=30

RIDDLER
1. Order Form,
2. Morning Glory,
3. North Korea,
4. Corner Store

STRIKE OUT

W	A	T	E	R	S	H	I	A	T	U	S			
I	O	O	F	I	B	H	A							
L	U	R	I	N	G	R	I	B	A	L	D			
D	R		R	E	A	D	M		D					
E	L	I		S	I	A	M		S	E	V	E		
R	D	Y	I	N	G	H	A	S	O	N				
T		A	D	D	E	D	U	P		A				
S	W	I	N	E		R	I	N	S	E		L		
	W	I	N	G		A	L	A	S		D	I	A	
A	G		R	H	Y	L		I		P				
T	O	R	Q	U	E		S	A	L	T	E	D		
H		B	A	A	D		E				O			
E	N	S	U	E	D		H	O	T	D	O	G		

FAST FIVE

C	A	L	I	F
A	B	E	L	E
R	A	V	I	N
O	C	E	A	N
B	I	L	L	Y

BULL'S EYE
aide, allied, daily, dale, daily, deal, delay, dell, dial, dill, idea, ideal, IDEALLY, idle, idly, idyll, lade, ladle, lady, laid, lead, led, yield

QUICK
REASSEMBLES
IMPALA DREDGE
T I E T A M C
NEERAJ MESSES
A L R P E I
RELATE HAPPEN
K I X G A I
NURSES GAUTAM
A E E V A D E
SIKKIM TINDER
O A A E I R
PARTNERSHIP

SUDOKU

5	9	4	2	3	1	8	6	7
7	2	3	8	4	6	9	5	1
6	8	1	5	9	7	3	4	2
1	4	7	6	2	3	5	8	9
3	5	8	4	7	9	2	1	6
2	6	9	1	5	8	7	3	4
4	1	2	9	8	5	6	7	3
9	7	5	3	6	4	1	2	8
8	3	6	7	1	2	4	9	5

ALPHA TRIANGLE
T, At, Tan, Neat, Meant, Inmate, Matinee.

GO FIGURE
Easy
4 – 6 + 5 – 1 = 2
Medium
6 – 5 + 7 x 4 = 32
Hard
2 x 2 – 2 x 3 = 6

QUOTE UNCODE
Stoop and you'll be stepped on; stand tall and you'll be shot at.

MENSA PUZZLE
7. Reading each row of the diagram as a series of 3 digit numbers, the centre 3 digit number equals the sum of the top 2 numbers, and the sum of the lower 2 numbers.

LOOP

KAKURO

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McGowan's suit against Weinstein dismissed

American actor Rose McGowan's lawsuit against disgraced Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein has been dismissed by a judge in California after she failed to file paperwork in the deadline

BangaloreMirror | 16
Thursday, December 9, 2021
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Not a cheap knot

A look at the costliest weddings of B-Town

Bollywood celebrities have lavish lives and their extravagant taste evidently reflects in their grand weddings. When it comes to spending money, B-Town refuses to be frugal! International destinations, royal cuisines, designer couture, custom-made gifts and what not – Bollywood actors go to great lengths to design a wedding of their dreams. From Anushka-Virat to Katrina-Vicky and Priyanka-Nick, take a look at the costliest shaadis of Bollywood!

Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal

Everything about Vicky and Katrina's wedding is royal! The couple booked a 14th century fort for their nuptials and will be shelling out lakhs just for their stay at Six Senses Fort Barwara. Vicky and Katrina will be staying in the luxury hotel's most expensive suite - Raja Man Singh – for the cost of Rs 7 lakh per night. Moreover, the couple has booked 15 other suites that cost Rs 4 lakh each. Beyond the destination wedding, Vicky and Katrina have also roped in multiple designers to work on their trousseau, have ordered organic Mehendi worth lakhs and are going to great lengths to keep their wedding under wraps.

Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone

Bollywood's power couple Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone tied the nuptial knot against the picturesque backdrop of Lake Como. The couple has reportedly booked an entire luxury resort in Italy for their big fat Indian wedding and they shelled out close to Rs 2 crore just for accommodation. According to reports, Ranveer and Deepika spent Rs 77 crore on their lavish wedding, which included two wedding ceremonies in Italy and two receptions in India.

Anushka Sharma and Virat Kohli

This hush-hush wedding brought together two aces belonging to different worlds and can easily be touted as the most expensive affair! Anushka and Virat, who are one of the highest earning celebrities in their respective fields, went all out to splurge on a fairy-tale wedding. The couple got married in a picturesque setting at Borgo Finocchieto, an 800-year-old village-turned-villa in Italy. This Tuscany wedding and several high-profile receptions, reportedly cost Anushka and Virat a whopping Rs 100 crore.

Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas

A royal palace turned into a wedding venue, extravagant fireworks and bespoke couture - Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas went all out to spend lavishly on their wedding in India. The couple had booked Umaid Bhawan Palace for week-long festivity which included sangeet, mehendi, haldi and two wedding ceremonies - one according to Hindu rituals and one Christian wedding. According to reports the couple spent around half a million (US) dollars on their lavish wedding.

Ashwin gets earful for his doze remark

Several directors from the Tamil film industry have taken exception to a statement of actor Ashwin Kumar Lakshmikanthan during his speech at the audio launch event of his upcoming film 'Enna Solla Pogirai'.

Ashwin, who is making his debut as an actor with the film 'Enna Solla Pogirai', had on Monday said that he had listened to some 40 scripts and dozed off during their narration. "The story that I didn't doze off to was narrated to me by director Hari," Ashwin said in a bid to highlight the fact that he only liked the story that had been narrated to him by director Hariharan.

However, his statement didn't amuse Tamil film directors, some of whom took to social media to express their thoughts. Tamil director S.P. Shakthivel said, "On behalf of 40 directors, I condemn you and your attitude. This kind of attitude I didn't expect from a debutant like you. You will realise this one day..."

The actor was also trolled on social media, prompting him to clarify that he never intended to disrespect any of the directors who had narrated their scripts to him. The actor also claimed that he had made the statements because of nervousness. However, not many are willing to buy the explanation.

Director and well-known actor A. Venkatesh took to Twitter to say, "When you feel sleepy, you could have said, 'Enough sir. I don't think this story will suit me', right? Time would have been saved and those directors would have tried other heroes with hope."

–IANS

'Money Heist' holds global eyeballs; 'Power of the Dog' leads in film

For nearly 190 million total viewing hours last week, Netflix audiences were singing 'Bella Ciao' after the fifth and final instalment of the Spanish drama series 'La Casa de Papel' popularly known as 'Money Heist' dropped December 3.

In just two days, 'Money Heist' took the top spot in Netflix's English language shows, rising to No. 1 on Netflix's Global top 10 list with far more total viewing hours than the week's top English-language show, 'Lost in Space', which logged 47.38 million hours for Season 3 during the week of November 29, reports variety.com.

'Money Heist', the twisty story of a bank robbery, features standout performances from Ursula Corbero, Alvaro Morte, Itziar Ituno, Pedro Alonso and Najwa Nimri, among other international talent.

Other non-English shows that have proven their staying power in Netflix's Global Top 10 include

Korean dramas 'Squid Game' (21.2 million hours) and 'Hometown Cha-Cha-Cha' (11.56 million) which have held their ground on non-English language TV Top 10 list for 12 weeks and 14 weeks, respectively.

A new addition to non-English Top 10 this week was the goofy anime series, 'JoJo's Bizzare Adventure: Stone Ocean', which landed at Number 8 in its first week with 13.98 million hours viewed.

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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 28 | Min 19 | Humidity 58% Sensex 58,649 | Nifty 17,469 | Gold 49,040 | Silver 61,900 | Dollar 75.45 | Euro 85.40 | GBP 100.05

NATION / PAGE 12

BIPIN RAWAT

March 16, 1958 - December 8, 2021

Nation left shocked by death of India's first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General Bipin Rawat, his wife and 11 others in a helicopter crash near Coonoor, TN

CITY / PAGE 3

IN FOCUS: GREEN PERIODS

Police carry out drive to popularise sustainable menstruation practices

Bicycles, best alternative to fossil fuel-powered commute, pushed off track sans robust parking infra

Paved paradise, forgot the parking lot

Cycling in Bengaluru: wheels without spokes?

Melvin Mathew
mybangaloremirror
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Environment-conscious citizens who cycle to get around the city are now finding themselves in a fix. Where to park the cycles?

In Bengaluru, most parking facilities are designed for two-wheelers and four-wheelers. There are no dedicated parking spots for bicyclists. Often, cyclists park at their own risk.

There is no significant progress in this regard even after citizens, including several ministers and environmental activists, have been vocal for emission-free commuting as only cycling supports a healthy lifestyle with no dependency on fossil fuels.

"At least 10-20 per cent of the motor vehicle parking space should be allocated for cyclists. Most businesses are stuck in the past and only those that are actively striving towards mitigating the aftermath of the climate emergency will understand the need," said Bengaluru bicycle mayor Sathya Sankaran.

A few days ago a cyclist in the city was refused a parking spot at a shopping mall and was asked to park his bike at his own risk.

The cyclist told BM he had just moved to the area and had gone with his friend to a mall for grocery

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

"There are very few companies that offer bicycle parking and make provision for employees to shower after they reach office

— Vidhya Chandran, founder, SpokesWomen

Underpass pushed under

NHAI says Centre yet to give approval for Sadahalli underpass as police push for infra

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

The city police have asked the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to complete the 'abandoned' underpass at Sadahalli Gate, the last hurdle enroute to the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA).

"We have been receiving complaints on two fronts. Firstly, the airport users have to halt at this signal before the toll gate. If there were to be no signal, then it would have been a hassle-free drive. Secondly, the residents on either side of the highway near Sadahalli Gate are finding it tough to cross the road. Many said if there was an underpass they could easily cross the busy highway. So, we are asking the NHAI to fast-track the project which has been kept in abeyance for the last couple of years," a senior police official said.

Currently, the underpass site is an eyesore as the road has been dug up and left as it is. Due to heavy rainfall, a portion had turned into a pool.

When contacted, a senior NHAI official said: "We have sent a proposal to the Centre. We hope to get a positive response shortly so that we can resume the work."

It may be noted that the NHAI had started the work on the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »